GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3512
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2017
Hazardous Chemicals
Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:-
(a) whether chemicals are used for ripening fruits in the country and if so, the details thereof ;
(b) whether the Government is aware the hazardous chemicals from China are being used in the country excessively and if so, the reactions of the Government there to;
(c) whether the Government propose the ban the use of chemicals for ripening of fruits which are harmful to human health and;
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)
(a) to (d) Ripening of fruits by using acetylene gas, commonly known as carbide gas is prohibited as per the provisions under sub - regulation 2.3.5 of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sale) Regulation, 2011 . However, under said sub-regulation, artificial ripening of fruits is permitted by using Ethylene gas at a concentration upto 100 ppm (100 Âµl /L) depending upon the crop, variety and maturity.
Enforcement of the provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations made thereunder is primarily the responsibility of the State /UT Governments. Regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products is being done by the officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/UTs to check compliance of the standards laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 , and the rules and regulations made thereunder. In cases where the food samples are found to be non −conforming, recourse is taken to penal provisions under Chapter IX of the FSS Act, 2006.
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